



Keeping in Touch - FROM A D I S T A N C E

Ref. No. KIT 002 – 9Sep21

9 September 2021

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Dear Parent,

Never before has the phrase 'Back to School' acquired such a dimension and depth in its meaning as this year. Without students, the school is truly solitary and secluded, for mere walls and facilities do not make a school. With the commencement of the new term, it was truly a heartening sight to witness the fleet of yellow buses entering the campus, bringing in students to the alma mater, their second home. The campus came to life after a year and a half of remote learning. The corridors resonated with the exuberance of their familiar chatter, the classes enlivened with their vibrant discussions and deliberations and playgrounds with their nimble feet and swift hands. In fact, 50% of the little champs of Kindergarten was present at the campus on the reopening day. We see a surge in numbers every passing day and I am pleased to state that normalcy is being restored. This success has been made possible largely because of the COVID- 19 vaccination drive by the UAE.

High vaccination rates have provided enough grounds for us to take strides towards a return to normalcy. At OOB, 99% of our faculty members and ancillary staff are fully vaccinated. Moreover, an estimated 85% of the senior students have also received the vaccine. We are regularly enforcing the necessary protocols and we assure all our parents that every possible measure is being taken to ensure that our boys are safe and protected. We are delighted to inform you that SPEA has relaxed its guidelines and now group activities such as school trips, celebrations, sports day and student camps are allowed to be conducted onsite with adherence to precautionary measures.

The students of OOB are a constant source of pride and inspiration to all of us. They continue to excel, surpassing all our expectations. In the *All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE)* and *All India Secondary School Examinations (AISSE)* of 2020-21, our students have produced exemplary results with a 100% pass percentage.

Grade 12 Highlights

- **Jeevadityan Sivakumar** topped the Science stream with a whopping **97.4%**, followed closely by **Varun Manoj** with a **97.2%** and **Om Gupta** with a **97%**.
- **Balaji Prasad** emerged as the Commerce topper with a **96.6%**, followed by **Sri Akash** with a **96.4%** and **Venkatachalam Periya Subbu** with a **95.8%**.
- Overall school average - **86.4%**, with the average of **88.8%** for the Science stream and **81.8%** for the Commerce stream.

Grade 10 Highlights

- **Rishitej Reddy** topped the school with a **98.6%**, followed by **Allen Benny** with a **98.4%** and **Aditya Sunil** with a **98.2%**.
- Overall school average - **84.34%**.

Om Gupta who had secured the third position in the Science stream also proved his proficiency in Physics by winning the Gold Medal in the 51st International Physics Olympiad, Lithuania, 2021, the very first Gold Medal for UAE in any international Olympiad. His academic excellence, impressive track record and extensive portfolio has also granted him admission into the esteemed University of

Oxford. We are also delighted that our topper in the Science stream, Jeevadityan Sivakumar, has secured admission into the prestigious Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, to pursue his studies in Mechanical Engineering. We are truly proud of their achievement and we wish them all the very best for the future.

OOB has created an environment that is heavily oriented towards innovation. Our students attended the Tanglethon - Innovative Ideation Competition, UAE's biggest virtual ideathon. The aim of the event was to enable young talents to come up with solutions to existing problems that posed difficult challenges in our community. The finalists pitched their ideas on the 8th of July beating over 45 participating teams from around the world. The winning prizes were worth \$3000, along with a chance to secure \$5000 funding from *UpNext* to develop the ideas. **Mrudul Mamtani** (12A), **Joy Das** (12C) and **Taha Shabbir** (12F) of Team Code V, won the first prize for their startup 'Schoolpad'. **Ammar Abdul**, **Muzaffar Siddique**, **Syed Abdul Mannan** and **Mustufa Shabbir Patva** (12D) of Team Dejavu came in second for their startup 'Scribib'. **Pranav Rajesh** (11B), **Joshua Joseph**, **Gilchrist** and **Harsh Desai** (11C) of Team Altered Strategies, secured the runners up position for their startup 'Aweskill'.

At the HSBC NextGen10 competition in UAE, our students made their mark by qualifying as finalists, from a total of 800 entries. They have received an opportunity to present their ideas at the UK pavilion of Expo 2020. **Mohammed Ashaz** (7G) pioneered a walking stick for the visually impaired. **Sreehari Nair** (8A) developed a calligraphy art program. **Dhanurvedin Sethu** (8I) visualized the concept of smart helmets for construction workers.

The heart of debating lies in the beauty of hearing arguments that challenge your worldviews. At the Dubai Debate League 2021, the OOB team consisting of **Abijith Madhavan** (9C), **Milek Anilkumar** (10F) and **Khush Sheth** (10 D) clinched the third place in the Junior category. Their debating proficiency, paired with our school's competitive spirit, enabled them to bring home this wonderful accolade.

OOB is home to scholars, athletes, scientists, innovators, and thinkers. **Amarnath Sreevalsan** (6E) is one such student. He has entered the India Book of Records by pulling off the impressive task of recalling capitals and currencies on hearing the names of 195 countries in only 10 minutes and 7 Seconds. **Anish Nagasai** of grade 8I solved 21 unique rubik's cubes while spinning on a smart wheel and won the International Book of Records Certificate for the World Record of Maximum Number of Rubik's Cubes solved while spinning on smart wheel. Adithya Anush of 7G got into the India Book of Records as well as the International Book of Records for identifying the maximum number of flags in one minute.

With the much-awaited Expo 2020 around the corner, OOB, along with a host of excited spectators, is eager to watch this global celebration of innovation and progress unfold. We can't express how proud we are of **David D'Silva** (4H), **Kayden D'Souza** (4E), **Joash Varghese Joseph** (6G), and **Gaurav Jayaprakash** (7H), who will be present in this global spectacle. They have been selected to be part of the Expo 2020 Choir, slated to perform during the Expo 2020 Opening Ceremony.

Along with the students, OOB is also immensely proud of its teachers. Their role in sculpting a student to face the challenges of tomorrow is truly what pushes the agenda of OOB forward. Thus, it is a privilege to watch our teachers have their efforts recognized and rewarded. Our very own **Ms. Annamma Lucy** was felicitated with a special gift by Joyalukkas on the occasion of Teachers' Day. This was done in recognition of her being bestowed with the honor of the '**2021 Dedicated Teacher Award**' acknowledging her spirited and determined approach to her outstanding contributions to teaching and learning. Our very own **Ms. Radhika Misra** and **Ms. Annamma Lucy** were felicitated at the Teacher's Day function 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at the Consulate General of India in Dubai on 5th September 2021.

With a focus on health and well-being, the Middle School initiated the 'Fitter, Healthier, Happier' sessions. The Primary department also adopted a similar approach by allocating a portion of the morning time to meditation.

At OOB, we strive towards igniting minds to educate, engage and empower. We are ever so proud of our students and teachers and indebted towards our parents who have entrusted us with the task of preparing their children for the wonderfully challenging and rewarding world of tomorrow.

We are active on twitter @OOB GEMS and Facebook at www.facebook.com/GEMSOwnBoys/. Do follow us there for regular updates.

Please note that we are also on Instagram now, with the handle, @gems_oob. By following us on social media and sharing our news, you reprise yourself as a brand ambassador for us.

With a promise to 'Keep in Touch'...

Warm Wishes,



Mili Elza Thomas
Supervisor - Secondary